



MarinesWest

Serving the recruiting family of the 12th Marine Corps District

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Photo by Cpl. Willy J. Lathrop, Photo Illustration by Sgt. C.R. Rye
 A Marine conducts a function check on his paintball gun prior to attending the force-on-force paintball scenario. More than 40 poolees from Permanent Contact Station Kalispell and Recruiting Sub-Station Missoula, Mont., Recruiting Station Salt Lake City, attended a two-day poolee function which allowed both the future recruits and their friends the opportunity to learn more about the Marine Corps August 10th and 11th.
 Back cover Photo Illustration by Sgt. C.R. Rye



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 Heavy Hitters, Awards, Promotions

2006
July

**Transitional
 Recruiting**

Monthly Mission:
 Direct Assignment Program -6
 Direct Referral -15
 Active Reserve -0
 Monthly Attained:
 Direct Assignment Program -7
 Direct Referral -27
 Active Reserve -7
 Fiscal Year To Date:
 Total # of Marines Briefed
 -12,558



Commander's Column

CHALLENGES REMAIN AS TEAM 12 STAYS COURSE

Team 12,

Summer is here and Team 12 is out in front of the pack once again! Our quality and attrition are well within standards and that is a direct reflection of the quality of the market you are working. Congratulations to the entire Team for a stellar July. I'm pleased that overall we're still sticking with a balanced grad/senior attack and still managing to address our near-term shipping concerns. Stay the course and simultaneously work both grad and senior markets. Five of eight stations made their assigned District missions in July, while six of eight stations made their assigned CMC mission. Congratulations to RS Seattle, July's District RS of the Month!

Before the new academic year kicks off, SNCOICs and XOs should be getting together to solidify next year's High School/Community College Master Plan to ensure it is in accordance with the CO's Milestones. At the same time, each SNCOIC should be verifying his RSS structure with the XO and Recruiter Instructor. Any changes to RSS or RS structure need to be completed before the school year starts. Once the year kicks off, we need recruiter continuity in the schools for the whole year. Mid-year is the wrong time to be reassigning recruiters between schools.

We've had a lot of command group turnover so far this summer, and next summer will be an even greater challenge. Recruiter Instructors should take the lead in ensuring new command group members not only attend all required courses, but conduct peer exchange visits, and are getting quality RS level training.

A few challenges remain in this FY as we strive to complete our MEOP Mission and Reserve Shipping Mission. Your efforts to close out the remaining FY06 open QSNs have been without parallel, but significant challenges still loom. The sooner we knock down these close targets, the sooner we can focus fully on the 1st Trimester of FY07 and even set our sights on FMAM. The importance of building CLEAN pools has never been greater.

You all continue to seek out the best and brightest of America's youth in a culture that doesn't want to acknowledge we are a nation at war. I commend your efforts as you face those day to day challenges to keep the all volunteer force all volunteer, and keep the ravages of war far from our shores. Stay the course, and know that you are responsible for the critical component that will ensure the health and success of our Corps into the future.



Thanks again to the Marine Recruiter Families that back us up every month. We couldn't do it without your support.

Be safe, take care of each other and good hunting.

Semper Fi,

Major General Paxton bids farewell to depot, Western Recruiting Region



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn

Major Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, leaves the depot today while Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas comes to the depot as the new commanding general.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Janowiec

MCRD San Diego

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO — While addressing a gathered crowd during a recent Morning Colors ceremony at Pendleton Hall, the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region paused, which has become a routine over his three years at the depot, to allow the roaring noise of an outgoing airplane from nearby Lindbergh Field to fade away.

“We have scheduled some flyovers for you,” said Maj. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., jokingly to the families and friends of recruits graduating that day as Marines.

“I want you to know that your son or loved one has looked at that aircraft for the last 12-and-a-half weeks and that is his freedom bird and it is his ticket home,” he said, with laughter following from the audience.

“So he’s delighted that you’re here now and he can actually go home,” said Paxton as he gave a thumbs-up to them. “But he does indeed have something to be proud of; he has earned the coveted title of United States Marine.”

Marines graduating from boot camp were the ultimate culmination and highlight of Paxton’s time at the depot, which officially ended Aug. 4 during a change of command ceremony at 3:30 p.m. on the Joseph H. Pendleton Hall lawn, where he will

relinquish his command to Brig. Gen. Angela Salinas.

Salinas is coming to the depot from her previous duty as the chief of staff, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Quantico, Va.

During Paxton’s command, he oversaw the training of recruiters and drill instructors, and ensured a smooth transition in transforming more than 17,000 civilians a year into Marines. This was successfully accomplished all while caretaking and improving the depot itself.

“With great wisdom, the Marine Corps put both recruiting and recruit training under one general,” said Col. Arthur J. Corbett, commanding officer of 12th Marine Corps District.

“The transformation process starts when an applicant raises his hand in the air and ends on the parade deck at graduation,” said Corbett, a native of Philadelphia.

“The recruiting and recruit training process that Paxton oversaw took place in as near a frictionless environment as I can conceive,” said Corbett. “Not only did he transform recruits into Marines, but he transformed the process itself by bringing recruiting and recruit training into a near seamless whole.”

Having been a recruiting officer from 1985 to 1989, Paxton has had experience in the systematic recruiting of the all-volunteer military strategy that started in 1973.

He understood then and during his tour at the depot, that there

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Los Angeles City Council awards Marines for burning home rescue attempt

Staff Sgt. Bobbie J. Bryant

Recruiting Station Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles City Council presented two Marines Letters of Commendation today at the Los Angeles City Hall for their heroic attempt to save two lives during a recent fire.

Lance Cpl. Richard Figueroa, 21, of Los Angeles, and Staff Sgt. Jose Umana, 27, of San Diego, tried desperately to save a 34-year-old woman and her 4-year-old daughter on the morning of June 27, 2006.

The mother, identified as Alicia Cruz, and her daughter died after a fire blazed through the bungalow-style home at 7:26 a.m. on the 1300 block of 2nd Avenue in West Adams/Harvard Heights. Within minutes, the fire engulfed the 600 square foot home.

The Marines instinctively sprang into action after learning there were people trapped inside.

They threw water on the door to see how hot it was. Steam instantly rose from the scorching door, telling them it was unsafe to enter. The only way into the home was through a window barricaded by safety bars. After they pulled the bars off with their own hands, Umana used his shirt to cover his face and low crawled into the living room. He no longer heard shouts from inside and noticed the ceiling falling down before turning to leave the house. Figueroa nearly severed his thumb after shattering a window and was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

Although two lives were lost in the tragic incident, the city wanted to recognize the heroic efforts of the Marines.

"There are so many of us who live our lives without worry. We just get in our car and go on about our day. We do not always remember the reasons why we live free or worry free," said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "It is because of the men and women who train to protect and serve the people of this country. These two put their lives on the line with total disregard for their own selves. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for what you have done."

A councilmember of the 10th District of Los Angeles presented the certificates to the Marines along side the Mayor and the Los



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bobbie J. Bryant

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa takes a photo at City Hall on July 28, 2006 with Staff Sgt. Jose Umana, a student at Drill Instructor's School aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego and Los Angeles native Lance Cpl. Richard Figueroa, a motor transportation operator with 2nd Truck Company, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina after presenting them a Certificate of Commendation by the City of Los Angeles.

"There are so many of us who live our lives without worry. We do not always remember the reasons why we live free or worry-free. It is because of the men and women who train to protect and serve the people of this country. These two put their lives on the line with total disregard for their own selves ."

*Antonio Villaraigosa
Los Angeles Mayor*

Angeles Police and Fire Departments.

"Today we honor these two Marines "who were able to make decisions in the midst of chaos," said Councilman Herb J. Wesson Jr. "They saw a fire and without hesitation, without a concern for their own safety they did everything they could to save someone's life."

"I wasn't thinking about being brave. I

just thought it was the right thing to do," said Umana, a student at Drill Instructor's School aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. "My main mission was to save the people inside. I just spoke to that little girl two days before she died. I wish I could have saved her and her mother's life."

During the tearful ceremony, both Marines turned to the victims' family.

"I am sorry for your loss. I wish I could have done more. You are in my prayers," said Figueroa, a motor transportation operator with 2nd Truck Company, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

After the ceremony the Los Angeles patrol command officer of the Wilshire Station took time to address the Marines.

"This was the perfect example of the quality and courage of the people we have in the Marine Corps. These two are a real tribute to the Corps for the simple fact that Marines do not stop working just because they are off duty," said Capt. Phillip Tingirides. "It is their character and they are always ready."

RS Orange County continues to meet goals

Sgt. M. Trent Lowry

Recruiting Station Orange County

ORANGE COUNTY, Calif. — When looking at the deeds of men, it could be noted that excellence in any endeavor is laudable, but consistently-performed excellence is worthy of the highest praise.

For instance, Recruiting Station Orange County has achieved its mission for 92 consecutive months, thus helping 12th Marine Corps District reach its mission goals over that time period. Recruiting Substation Upland has continued to be instrumental to RS Orange's success by continuing to excel in its mission to help the Marine Corps team.

Averaging five canvassing recruiters and a single staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge at any given time, RSS Upland is no different from most large substations. Within the geographically small area of RS Orange, RSS Upland covers a relatively large area in the northwestern sector of the RS.

What sets the RSS apart, according to its current SNCOIC, Gunnery Sgt. Gordon M. Miller, is the quality of Marines under his charge.

"The Marines here are motivated," said Miller, who in June had three Centurions — or recruiters who have written 100 contracts or more — working at the RSS. "Four have been meritoriously promoted to their current ranks while here. Each of them has personal goals, and we have goals as a team, that we each work hard to achieve."

Top to bottom, the recruiters who have been on production have proven themselves with their actions. It begins with Miller, one of the Upland Centurions, and previous substation leaders.

"Having Master Sgt. (Paulo A.) Moniz (former Upland SNCOIC and current RS Orange operations chief) out here for so long was great," Miller said. "He brought a plethora of knowledge. He built this team; all I'm doing is taking that success and maintaining it."

Moniz was the SNCOIC at Upland for both of the last two RS-level Large Substation of the Year awards. His and Miller's influence have made their mark on the recruiters.

"Having the best recruiters in the Corps teaching me?" Sgt. Nicholas B. Jones, an Upland canvassing recruiter, asked in a rhetorical sense about his leadership. "It seems to have helped out a lot that I have good Marines to emulate."

The exhibition of leadership by example is one of the strengths of the experienced recruiters within the substation, Miller said.

"Having a seasoned recruiter out there who can show the newer recruiters the ropes is the whole ballgame," Miller said.

The Upland substation has had five RS-level recruiters of the month and four rookies of the month in the past 18 months. Staff Sgt. Manuel Palos, contracting recruiter at Upland's permanent contact station in Corona, has taken three District-level recruiter of the month titles, and more impressively, finished a close second in the Marine Corps Recruiting Command nationwide recruiter of the year judging for fiscal year 2005.

"I have personal pride knowing I'm doing the best I can do," Palos said. "It is also satisfying knowing I'm helping kids have an opportunity, and I'm helping change the face of the Corps."

Even though some of the recruiters earn more individual accolades than others, each of the Upland recruiters maintain that the efforts are



Photo by Sgt. M. Trent Lowry

The recruiters at Recruiting Substation Upland, Recruiting Station Orange County, led by Gunnery Sgt. Gordon M. Miller, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, far right, stand together as a team, pooling their experience and drive to maintain consistency as one of the most productive substations in the 12th Marine Corps District.

team-driven.

"Each of the recruiters is unique," Miller said. "They come from different backgrounds within the Corps. Each has different techniques they use, but they all apply themselves."

Another factor in the Upland Marines' success is their pride in the Marine Corps and their appreciation of how the recruiting mission fits into the big picture.

"Almost everyone here in the RSS has been to Iraq or Afghanistan at least once; three of them have Purple Hearts," Miller said of his Marines. "Knowing what's going on over there motivates us to do what we do with a sense of pride, being on recruiting duty at a time like this. We all appreciate that, right now, we're not in harm's way."

The recruiters each came to recruiting duty for different reasons, but they all have put forth their best efforts.

"I volunteered for recruiting because I wanted a change of pace from constantly deploying and I came out here to make a difference," said Jones, who grew up minutes from the RSS office, enlisted from the same office and spent his recruiters' assistance duty at the same office. "I wasn't right about the change of pace, though. The rewards of making mission on time — including spending time with my family — has kept me on task."

Miller emphasized that support from the families — the wives and children "who are really the ones who have it hard on recruiting duty" — gave them the strength to excel, and he also had praise for the supportive RS Orange command group. But mostly, Miller had high praise for his Marines.

"It's a pleasure to have Marines of this caliber to work with. The job just gets easier that way," Miller said. "If you've got all this positive energy around you, you'll pick up on it."

Whether RSS Upland receives any more substation of the year honors is yet to be seen, but with the consistency, they've made mission and helped to lead RS Orange, it would be unwise to bet against them.

Corps' Myspace profile taps into younger generation



The Marine Corps now has a profile on the popular social networking Web site MySpace.com featuring videos, desktop wallpapers and a link that helps visitors contact a recruiter through Marines.com. More than 14,500 users have signed up as friends of the Marine Corps on the popular site.

Lance Cpl. Terence L. Yancey

MCB Camp Butler

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, Japan —

The Marine Corps has established a profile on the popular social networking Web site MySpace.com in order to spread interest and boost its recruiting mission, according to officials from Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

The Marine Corps recruiting profile features videos, desktop wallpapers and a link that helps visitors contact a recruiter through Marines.com, the Corps' official recruiting Web site.

More than 14,500 users have signed up as friends of the Marine Corps on the popular site, which boast 98 million registered users.

"The objective of advertising on MySpace.com is to generate awareness of the Marine Corps and direct men and women to the Marines.com Web site for more information," said Sgt. Brian J. Griffin, community relations chief for the Marine Corps Recruiting Command's Public Affairs Office.

The Corps' overall goal is to put individuals in contact with a Marine recruiter who can answer questions and screen interested potential recruits. Since its creation in February 2006, the MySpace.com link has led 50,000 people to Marines.com, according to Griffin.

Over the years, Marine Corps recruiting has taken advantage of new technologies. In more recent years, a lot of focus has been

placed on television and the internet. With the growing popularity of blogging and online social networking, the Marine Corps has stepped up to tap into the new medium.

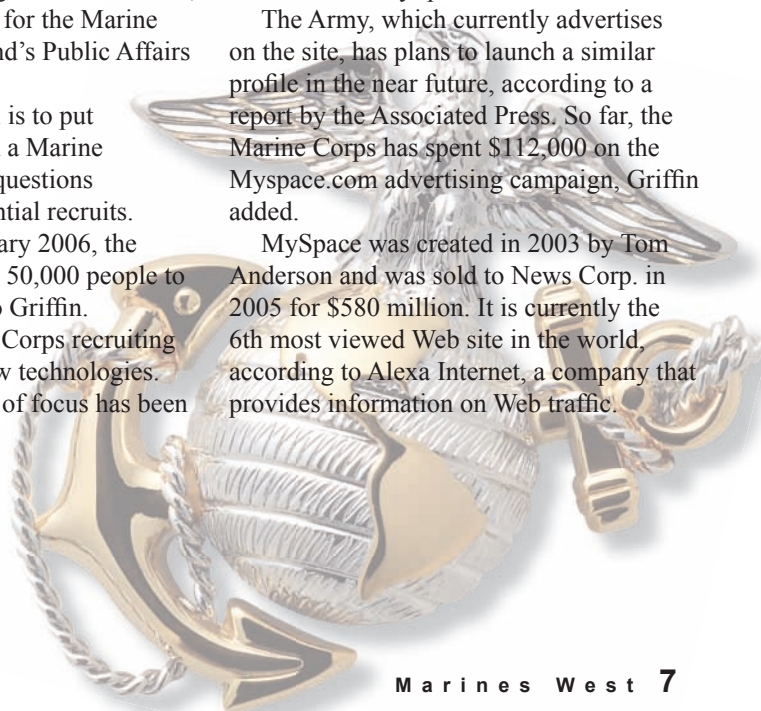
In 2004, recruiters from Recruiting Station Los Angeles, Culver City sub station, would get 25-30 contacts a month through Marines.com, according to Staff Sgt. Ernie Mena, a former recruiter with the station who is currently the armory chief for 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, currently serving as the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's battalion landing team. Mena said he has seen the Marine Corps' use of computers and the internet develop rapidly during his career.

"Most of us didn't have computers when I joined, but now they're everywhere," Mena said. "MySpace is a great tool to attract young adults nowadays because most of them spend a lot of time behind a computer."

"The Marine Corps and J. Walter Thompson, the Corps' contracted advertising agency, continually evaluate opportunities and mediums to spread our message of opportunity to young men and women," Griffin said. The Marine Corps also advertises on MySpace with banner ads.

The Army, which currently advertises on the site, has plans to launch a similar profile in the near future, according to a report by the Associated Press. So far, the Marine Corps has spent \$112,000 on the Myspace.com advertising campaign, Griffin added.

MySpace was created in 2003 by Tom Anderson and was sold to News Corp. in 2005 for \$580 million. It is currently the 6th most viewed Web site in the world, according to Alexa Internet, a company that provides information on Web traffic.



Missoula meets K



Cpl. Willy J. Lathrop

Recruiting Station Salt Lake City

MISSOULA, Utah — More than 40 poolees from Permanent Contact Station Kalispell and Recruiting Sub-Station Missoula, Mont., Recruiting Station Salt Lake City, attended a two-day poolee function which allowed both the future recruits and their friends the opportunity to learn more about the Marine Corps August 10th and 11th.

The event began early Thursday morning with the poolees and their guests meeting at the RSS, dressed in various degrees of camouflage, and mounted into vehicles. Their destination — a remote section of woods run by a former Marine. Their mission — spend the day learning about patrolling and ambushes and applying the techniques in a force-on-force paintball scenario.

On hand to instruct the poolees in tactics was Gunnery Sgt. Chris Harris, a former instructor at the Camp Pendleton School of Infantry, who currently serves as the operations chief for RS Salt Lake City.

"I gave my platoon, the 'Scandalous Warriors,' periods of instruction on squad tactics to include constructing a defense, patrolling, ambushes and hand-and-arm signals," Harris explained.

His platoon was "scandalous," because while the Kalispell pool was enjoying the hot August day splish-splashing in a creek, the Missoula crew was busy constructing covered-and-concealed defensive positions, placing aiming stakes, reconnoitering their opponents' camp and studying the terrain model designed by one of the stellar Marines attached to Harris' team.

Both platoons met up that evening to enjoy a MRE feast and participate in a period of instruction on fire-team formations and fire-team rushes given by Cpl. Willy J. Lathrop.

After a safety brief given by Master Sgt. Ryan M. Thain, staff



Kalispell in paint brawl

noncommissioned officer-in-charge of RSS Missoula, the paintball guns and masks were distributed and the platoons retired back to their individual camps.

An hour of fierce lightning and rain delayed the start of hostilities until 9:30 p.m., when the all-clear was given, and the teams began to move toward each other across approximately 3,000 meters of heavily-wooded terrain.

Patrols from both sides encountered each other all night, clashing in fierce mock-combat, filling the air with hundreds of paintballs, the vocal outbursts of opponents letting it be known when someone was hit.

A foray from Harris' team, led by Lance Cpl. Erica Schofield, a recent graduate of Marine Combat Training getting ready to attend the Marine Corps Personnel Administration school, made it to Kalispell's base of operations and led her patrol successfully through a hail of paint, inflicting a number of "casualties" among the enemy.

The evening ended with the teams drying out their bones next to campfires before making their way to their tents to get some rest before the next morning's eco-challenge.

A breakfast of MRE's prepared the rested poolees for the final event, a team-building challenge consisting of a 150-meter sprint, a fireman carry, log carry, stretcher carry, with the final leg of the race being two, five-gallon water cans being carried to the finish line by one participant from each team. Kalispell carried the win by a few seconds, boosting the spirits of a team who still felt the sting of the Custer-like leadership from the evening prior.

The final event of the two-day retreat was a tug-of-war between



Photos by Cpl. Willy J. Lathrop

(Far Left) Poolees from Permanent Contact Station Kalispell, Mont., begin to run their log during the eco-challenge held as part of the Recruiting Sub-Station Missoula, Mont., poolee function Aug. 11. (Bottom Left) Poolees from Team Kalispell heave against Team Missoula during the tug-of-war held at the end of the pool function. (Above) A Marine conducts a function check on his paintball gun prior to attending the force-on-force paintball scenario.

the two teams, with Missoula winning after much foot-dragging and heaving done by both sides. To keep Missoula's ego in check, ten of the present Marines faced off against the 12-person winning team of Missoula on the rope, making short work of the poolees and leaving a distinct impression of who and what Marines are.

"I had a great time, I had so much fun and learned more than I thought I would from just a camping trip," said Devon Pinkal, a 17-year-old from Hamilton, Mont.

Pinkal was not in the delayed-entry program at the time of the event, but joined the Missoula pool Aug. 14, three days after the pool function.

All of the attendees from the event, poolees and Marines alike, had a great time and are looking forward to the next RSS Missoula pool function.

Marines receive HSSP Award



Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones

(Above) Corporal Scott Tremayne, flight equipment mechanic, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, ensures Amanda, a second-grader, doesn't cheat during a baby shower game June 15, at Morning Creek Elementary School. (Right) Students from Morning Creek Elementary School surround Capt. Adam Brammer, Information Systems Management Officer, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, after playing a game of handball.



Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.

— When Amy Budde, a teacher at Morning Creek Elementary School, contacted Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in hopes of setting up a “Partnerships in Education” program with her classroom, she never dreamed of the huge impact that the students, herself and Marines would have on each other.

Since the program’s start in January, six selfless Marines have spent their time forming friendships, encouraging dreams and inspiring Budde’s second grade students, earning the California State Parent Teacher Association’s “Honorary Service Special Person Award” for their efforts.

“When these Marines walked into my classroom, I never could have imagined just how significant this project would become in the children’s lives and mine,” said Budde, a Seattle, native. “The effect that these fine young men had on the children is something irreplaceable. They were big brothers to these kids.”

Every month, the Marines would read books, help with special craft projects and school assignments, listen to “show-and-tell” speeches, and play sports and games with the children.

Originally, the program started out with the Marines visiting the classroom once a month, but Budde and the Marines quickly agreed that additional visits were necessary. Soon the Marines were visiting once every other week and then multiple times in the months nearing the end of the school year, even attending Budde’s baby shower.

The Marines also began showing up ahead of their scheduled time and started staying in the classroom longer. Several Marines, including Capt. Adam Brammer, Information Systems Management Officer, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, also made plans to volunteer next school year.

“I know a lot of these kids don’t sleep the night before we come,” said the Loveland, Colo. native. “It feels great knowing that they look forward to this.”

According to Budde, she never thought of how the children would impact the Marines, only how the Marines would impact the children.

“I had a long conversation with two of the Marines on their last day in the classroom,” she said. “One mentioned that no matter what the stresses were in his daily life or work life, he always looked forward to coming to the classroom because all of his worries would go away.”

On the last day of the program, Budde and several of the kids shed tears as they said goodbye to their “heroes.”

“I realized that these Marines were saying goodbye to the children with the same pride and sadness that I feel when I say goodbye at the end of each school year,” said Budde. “Learning truly was a two-way road for the children and Marines. They are Marines, but most importantly to the kids...heroes.”

Pam Zemper is one delighted parent who couldn’t be happier to hear about her daughter’s recap of her day at school with the Marines.

“This is a great program and lots of other classes are very jealous,” Zemper, a San Diego native, said. “It has been the best part of Amanda’s second grade experience and this is really the best year in school that she has ever had, because of the Marines.”

Dedication, rigorous hours earn Marine Centurion Award



Photos by Sgt. Claudia Garcia

Staff Sgt. Denver Valencia Inopiquez, a 29-year-old native from San Jose, Calif., is scheduled to receive the recruiting Centurion Award at Recruiting Station San Diego for his positive work ethic and output while on recruiting duty. Inopiquez successfully wrote 101 contracts while on recruiting duty.

Sgt. Claudia Garcia

Recruiting Station San Diego

SAN DIEGO — “Arduous hours, recruiting responsibilities and tough challenges all are part of this job and there are those who say one should not take work home, I for one, disagree,” said Staff Sgt. Denver Valencia Inopiquez, Marine recruiter, Recruiting Station, San Diego, Recruiting Substation Chula Vista.

Inopiquez, a 29-year-old native of San Jose, Calif., is scheduled to receive the Centurion Award for writing 101 contracts while on recruiting duty.

“My wife has been very understanding in sharing my recruiting experience with her and bringing work home was not always bad. She gave me strength and wanted for me to be successful in my job,” said Inopiquez.

Rachel Argallon Inopiquez, his wife, has been a key factor to his success while on recruiting duty. According to Inopiquez, Rachel kept the family together while caring for their 2-year-old son, Denver, and took on most of the household responsibilities to allow for her husband's long working hours.

According to Inopiquez, few Marines within the RS have accomplished the feat of writing more than 100 contracts during their tour on recruiting duty, thus receiving the centurion award.

Inopiquez found himself especially challenged during his recruiting duty tour when students could not pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. In addition, medical problems became an obstacle, as well as school officials.

He states his biggest obstacles were parents, friends and negative media.

“I find myself winning parents over by simply being honest, straight forward, and responsible when taking care of their sons and daughters,” said Inopiquez.

Another contribution to Inopiquez' success is being a positive role model for students.

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Hometown Heroes



(Above Bottom) MIRAMAR, Calif. – Lance Cpl. Jose Carranza (center), avionics electrician technician, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, Marine Aircraft Group 16, surrounds himself with loved ones during his homecoming Aug. 15. Carranza and approximately 250 Marines and sailors returned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar after a six-month deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit to the Western Pacific and Middle East Region. Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones (Above Top) U.S. Marines from 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment participate in a military operation in urban terrain exercise July 23, at the Combined Training Facility Schofield on Barracks, Hawaii, in support of exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006. Conducted in the waters off Hawaii, RIMPAC brings together military forces from Australia, Canada, Chile, Peru, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Rebecca J. Moat



Sergeant Jarod Elder, a Temecula, Calif., native and U.S. Marine, lets a young Sudanese boy look through the scope of his rifle July 14 at a Sudanese refugee camp in western Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Refugee camps scattered throughout western Anbar often fall victim to insurgent violence. U.S. Marines say security throughout the region is steadily improving, especially since Coalition Forces struck a blow to the insurgency here recently.

Photo by Sgt. Graham A. Paulsgrove

Recruits reach end of rope rappelling

Tower tests recruits' will, guts

Lance Cpl. Robert Beaver

MCRD San Diego

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO -- As a young recruit peeks over the rappel tower's edge, his forehead begins to perspire and his limbs begin to shake. The recruit knows he must face his fear of heights as he knows the only way off this obstacle is straight down.

He gets into position with his toes on the edge and his heels facing away from the tower. In a matter of seconds, he rappels safely to the ground.

With a little more than a week left until graduation, recruits are challenged with the depot's 60-foot-tall rappel tower. Recruits get the opportunity to become familiar with rappelling through a basic course.

"During this training evolution, the recruits learn the basics of rappelling," said Staff Sgt. Rafael Trevino, an instructor with instructional training company. "This also helps some of them overcome their fear of heights, and it allows them to gain trust in their equipment. This obstacle is definitely a confidence builder."

Recruits learn the proper techniques for rappelling as well as how to create the safety harness that will hold them safely when rappelling.

The harness is made using a six-foot rope that is wrapped around the legs and hips. Then it is secured by a series of square knots.

On the modern battlefield, wars are fought in urban areas. The best way to secure a building is from the top to the bottom as it throws the enemy off, according to Sgt. Juan Lopez, an instructor with Instructional Training Company.

Recruits get the opportunity to learn several different rappelling techniques. Fast roping, wall rappelling and descending from a simulated helicopter hell-hole are the three different training scenarios featured on the tower.

Fast roping, a method used for quick insertion on an objective from a helicopter, is the first technique recruits learn during this training phase. Sliding down 15 feet of rope to the ground, the fast technique is similar to the way a fire fighter slides down a pole during an emergency.

The recruits must do their part when sliding down the rope to quickly clear the landing zone to prevent being landed on by the following recruit.

Each recruit has the opportunity to experience fast roping during boot camp; however, they may not have the chance to do both of the other methods due to the short amount of time for the training evolution, according to Trevino.

Like the fast rope technique, the hell-hole is used for fast insertion from a helicopter. The term 'hell-hole' refers to the hole in a helicopter's fuselage. But unlike fast roping, hell-hole insertion is used with safety equipment and is done at a higher altitude. This version of rappelling is a vertical drop from the top of the tower.

The other technique recruits may learn is the wall rappel. This method is also used with safety equipment, and simulates rappelling down the side of a building.

Recruits are issued the respective safety gear prior to the training evolution. With the assistance of a tactical helmet, gloves, ropes, carabiner and a spotter, recruits make their descent safely to the ground.

Although this training only gives recruits the basics, it will benefit them later when they continue this training while they are in the Fleet Marine Force, according to Trevino.

During the one-day course, recruits learn three different techniques of rappelling. Although some recruits will not be in combat units, there's always a chance they may be called to fulfill the duty of every Marine and be a rifleman.

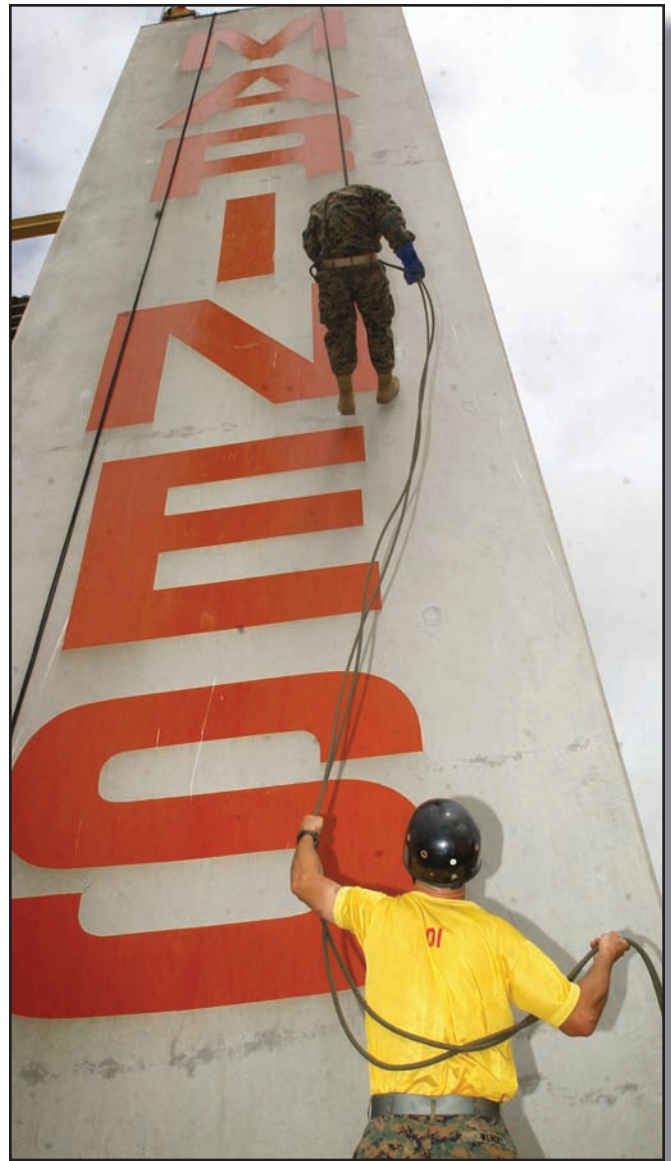


Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert Beaver

A drill instructor with Company H holds the rope for a recruit to ensure his safety as he slides down the depot's rappel tower.

were necessary elements in recruiting for the Marine Corps. He said individuals volunteering for service are academically sound, physically strong and morally straight. These elements afford the Marine Corps the best possible building blocks so the drill instructors can take young men and women and make them into Marines.

"I can tell you unequivocally that we are getting the best quality that we need for today's Marine Corps and for combat in today's world," said Paxton, who hails from Broomall, Pa.

There were major challenges posed to recruiting during Paxton's tour at the depot of which he dealt with through positive and consistent leadership and a willingness to put good ideas from the field to use.

"Despite a protracted, media criticized war, when the recruiting service was reduced to 85 percent of manning level, Paxton led his Marines with an optimistic confidence that inspired us all," said Corbett. "He trusted his Marines to do what was right, and led us with energetic example.

"He is the kind of leader no one ever wants to let down. His solution to problems was to look for additional tools—not to break Marine backs trying to do the same thing the same way.

"Videos like Educator Speak and the (Musician Enlistment Option Program) video reflected his commitment to innovation and the ability to move good ideas to become new tools," said Corbett.

Good ideas weren't limited to recruiting. Paxton accepted the X-2 Program, which was designed to decrease the number of recruit injuries and was spearheaded by the preceding depot commanding general, Lt. Gen. Jan C.

Huly, deputy commandant of Plans, Policies & Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps.

He mentioned that many recruits were not used to the combat boots or the hectic physical exertion.

Paxton was involved with the transformation process of recruits, yet his influence was not directly on them; rather it was on the leadership and the training which was responsible for that transformation.

"His key influence on the transformation process was the legendary Marine Corps drill instructor who is a strategic asset to our Corps," said Col. Robert O. Sinclair, commanding officer, Recruit Training Regiment.

The commanding general's enthusiasm for his work never waned. He understood the critical aspects of making Marines and the teamwork required between the recruiters and recruit trainers for success.

"The transformation from civilian to recruit and recruit to Marine could not be accomplished without a coordinated and unified effort," said Col. Mark Callihan, chief of staff for the depot and WRR.

"He provided guidance and trusted the commanders to make things happen," he said. "His supervision was accomplished without being overly directive; in other words you felt empowered. Empowerment generated enthusiasm for the work, and enthusiasm generated a very positive work environment. The cycle continues uninterrupted."

Paxton inspired others with the history he espoused.

According to Barbara McCurtis, director of the MCRD Command Museum, whenever he told a historical story, those listening knew it was accurate.

She also said that Paxton was the first commanding general of the depot, that she knows of, who ensured people called each building by its name rather than by its number in order to preserve and honor the integrity of the Marine Corps heritage.

The tour that Paxton spent at the depot was a successful one. But he said that success came through the teamwork of all the Marines, both officer and enlisted, who were involved in recruiting and the recruit training process.

He said that WRR and the depot have had 36 straight months of success. It was going on long before he arrived and will go on long after he departs today to his next duty station as the commanding general of 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"I have tremendously enjoyed and benefited, both personally and professionally, from this three year tour," said Paxton. "It's truly been one of the highlights of a very fortunate career for me.

"I applaud the individual and collective work of each and every member in this command: Marine, sailor, [Coast Guardsmen] and civilian Marine. They all do great things. And I have been proud to be a part of their team since they accomplish an important mission in our Global War on Terrorism," he said.

As he leaves, the staff at the depot and throughout WRR will miss Paxton for the leadership he provided and the effort he made to keep the Marine Corps thriving and moving forward with strength.

"Trust and nerve are leadership qualities that reflect depth of character," said Corbett.

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"They look up to what we do as recruiters and being a positive influence and mentor in their life is very important to our success," said Inopiquez.

Throughout his journey, Inopiquez had many influences who contributed to his success as a recruiter.

"Gunnery Sgt. Marchese kept me consistent, always pushing me, challenging me, never allowed me to slack off," said Inopiquez.

"I will miss recruiting for many reasons; the students, watching the complete transformation and the impact I made on the families I became very close to," said Inopiquez.

Top Recruiting Substations

RSS	APR	Contracts	%	Marine In Charge
Los Angeles				
Bakersfield	2.17	14	108	GySgt. J.S. Freeman
Santa Clarita	4.00	5	250	SSgt. N.M. Butcher
Orange County				
Fullerton	2.40	13	118	GySgt. D.L. Alexander
Redondo Beach	2.33	8	133	SSgt. N.E. Valdezmarquez
Portland				
Salem	2.40	12	109	MSgt. R.D. Murray
Bend	2.00	4	133	GySgt. W.L. Hess
Sacramento				
Reno	2.50	12	133	GySgt. R.H. Mooney
Clovis	2.33	7	117	SSgt. K.D. Cork
Salt Lake City				
None Qualify				
None Qualify				
San Diego				
Oceanside	3.00	15	125	GySgt. S.M. Hudachko
Poway	5.00	5	166	SSgt. S. Jimenez
San Francisco				
Santa Rosa	2.00	8	113	GySgt. M. Shane
San Francisco	1.67	6	100	GySgt. A. English
Seattle				
Everett	3.80	21	191	MSgt. H.B. Sanchez
Northgate	2.50	6	100	SSgt. K.J. Ellis

Promotions

SgtMaj. L.E. Archambault LAX	GySgt. J. Sims Jr. LAX
SgtMaj. D.W. Farr SDO	GySgt. J.L. Mosley SAC
GySgt. R.V. Arellano SAC	SSgt. I. Arredondo SEA
GySgt. M.N. Rumbaua SLC	SSgt. S.C. Mercado LAX
GySgt. A.J. Antenoracruz ORG	

Awards

Maj. T.R. Franklin MSM	Sgt. P.B. Anderson NAM
GySgt. T.H. Tran NC	Sgt. L.A. White COC
GySgt. S.J. Rubeck NC	SSgt. R.V. Arellano COC
SSgt. R. Torres NAM	Sgt. J. Passarella COC
GySgt. R. Medrano Jr. NAM	SSgt. B.J. Barrios COC
GySgt. W.L. Hess NAM	SSgt. W.M. Kidd CG's COC
Sgt. E. Penavielza NAM	GySgt. S.T. Alexander VSM
SSgt. C.S. Pagdilao NAM	

Top Recruiters

	Contracts
ORG SSgt. M. Palos	7 – 350%
SEA GySgt. M.A. Suzuki	7 – 285%
PRT Sgt. B.D. Blaser	6 – 300%
LAX GySgt. E.S. Ginez	5 – 250%
SFO SSgt. C.R. Inboden	4 – 200%
SAC Sgt. J.W. Furlong	4 – 133%
SLC Sgt. M.A. Montgomery	3 – 100%
SDO Sgt. D.N. Bell	2 – 100%

Heavy Hitters

	Contracts
SEA GySgt. M.A. Suzuki	7
ORG SSgt. M. Palos	7
ORG Sgt. N.G. Diaz	6
SEA Sgt. M.W. Allen	6
PRT Sgt. B.D. Blaser	6
SDO Sgt.C.J. Guitron	6
ORG Sgt. B.M. Bass	5
ORG Sgt. T.K. Teruya	5
ORG Sgt. R. Guerrero	5
ORG Sgt. E.J. Arriaga	5
PRT GySgt. J.M. Cornejo Jr.	5
SEA GySgt. E.L. Stapleton	5
SEA SSgt. J.M. Rickman	5
SAC Sgt. J.A. Starjak	5
SLC SSgt. M.C. Weiss	5
SDO SSgt. M.C. Stanley	5
SDO SSgt. R.R. Meza	5
SDO SSgt. M.D. Witzel	5
SLC SSgt. P.A. Finzel	4
SLC Sgt. A. Garcia	4
SEA SSgt. P.R. Volker	4
SEA Sgt. R.L. Calica	4
SEA Sgt. C.J. Foster	4
SEA Sgt. J.G. Tapia	4
SEA Sgt. R.S. Go	4
ORG SSgt. M.M. Teson	4
ORG Sgt. M.E. Klepsa	4
PRT SSgt. J.R. Fletcher	4
PRT SSgt. C.J. Brown	4
PRT Sgt. T.L. Rose Jr.	4
PRT GySgt. K.E. King II	4
SDO GySgt. M.A. Moravec	4
SAC SSgt. C. Cortez	4
SAC Sgt. J.C. Scott	4
SAC SSgt. E.H. Correa	4
SAC SSgt. F.A. Jones	4
SAC SSgt. J.L. Mosley	4
LAX GySgt. P.O. Burgess	4
LAX SSgt. O.A. Diaz	4
LAX Sgt. I. Perez	4
LAX Sgt. C.L. Holmes	4
LAX Sgt. D. Rincon	4
SFO SSgt. J. Ramos Jr.	3

Heavy Hitters cont.

	Contracts
SFO SSgt. D. Sage	3
SFO Sgt. J. Martinez	3
SFO Sgt. J.A. Lopezflores	3
SFO Sgt. I. Gray	3

